

Burke Gilman Trail Redevelopment Project

Property Owner Meeting #2

May 23, 2006



Introduction

The Burke Gilman Trail Redevelopment Project began in 2004 with a study led by the landscape architecture firm Atelier. This study evaluated approximately two miles of the Burke Gilman Trail through Lake Forest Park from NE 145th Street to Log Boom Park, and includes recommendations for how the trail can be redesigned and rebuilt to provide for the safety of all users, as well as adjoining homeowners. The trail design process, which is being led by landscape architecture firm, MacLeod Reckord, will take place throughout 2006-2007.

Terry Reckord presented design schematics for the trail. There are five key phases included in the design of the trail: 1) predesign, 2) schematic design, 3) design development, 4) construction documents and 5) construction. Currently, the project is at the end of the schematic phase and MacLeod Reckord will begin developing a final design, which will include details such as identifying construction materials, the location of specific elements like retaining walls and light standards, and detailed intersection plans. Final design will begin in June 2006 and run for approximately four months. It will be followed by the development of construction documents, then bidding from contractors. Construction is anticipated to begin in spring 2007 and will last approximately five months.

On March 14, 2006, the first property owner meeting for the Burke Gilman Trail Redevelopment Project was held at the Lake Forest Park Civic Club. This meeting provided an opportunity for property owners to learn about the preliminary design for the Burke Gilman Trail. MacLeod Reckord incorporated their comments into the design



schematics, which were presented at a second property owner meeting on Tuesday, May 23, 2006. The meeting was held from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. at the Lake Forest Park Elementary School. A postcard announcing the meeting was sent to 200 property owners who reside next to the trail. Forty-four people signed in at the meeting.

Meeting Format

The purpose of this meeting was to inform residents about the project and gather feedback on the schematic designs. Attendees could briefly talk with project staff at the beginning of the meeting; this was followed by a presentation from Terry Reckord. After the presentation, attendees were invited to ask questions or share their comments on trail design. Since the meeting some property owners have also submitted their comments by mail. The following is a summary of those questions and comments.

Comment Summary

Participants submitted comments -- both verbally during the question and answer period and in writing on the comment forms or via email. Sixteen people submitted written comments. Meeting participants commented on a variety of topics, ranging from the direction signs face on the trail, trail maintenance, speed limit enforcement, encroachment on private property and the right-of-way, to the trail surface and width.

A major concern, expressed time and again, had to do with the proposed removal of stop and yield signs that are currently posted at a number of private driveways along the trail. Trailside homeowners believe that these are important deterrents to cyclist speeding and other irresponsible behavior. Most of those present disagreed with the removal of these signs, even though, as Terry Reckord explained, this type of overly restrictive signage



often poses more dangers than safety benefits and traffic engineering best practice states that right of way be assigned to direction of travel with the higher traffic volumes, which would be the trail. A major issue for homeowners is the degree to which one would be held liable, should an accident occur.

Attendees wanted to make sure that their private property would not be negatively impacted by trail widening. Additionally, they were concerned about vegetation and fencing in the right of way that provides screening and privacy to private property and asked that it be rebuilt and replaced. Many participants felt that trail policies such as cycling speeds should be enforced. Some property owners were concerned that the trail has not been maintained in the past and that there will not be funding to maintain it after construction. Finally, several homeowners were concerned about slope erosion along the trail.